



## Space Utilization Study Cherry Brook Primary School

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*Community Workshop #1 – 11/1/2007*

### **CONTENTS** Breakout Session Discussion Summary

There were approximately 10 people attending this breakout session. The group discussion was led by D.Paul Moore, and talked about the activities, programs, and services offered within the building. The following discussion points were noted:

#### FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN

- Student performance will be improved with full-day kindergarten
- Half-day program doesn't allow enough time
- Half-day program has to cover as much material as the full-day program
- We should make decisions based on what's best for the education of students
- Can children of this age handle a full day? Yes, the program starts with half-day in September, then transitions to full day.
- Kindergarten class sizes were discussed: official range is 18-24 students, but educators prefer not to go above 22.
- There are 131 students in kindergarten now. It could have been higher, but several parents decided their children weren't ready, and held them out this year.
- Parents are calling about their programs before and after school.
- Although it has been rumored that full-day kindergarten may be mandated by the state in a few years, it would be phased in.

#### CONSTRUCTION CONCERNS

- Concern about construction starting in the lowest grades and progressing through the school system at the same rate as the students, so every school a student attends is under construction
- Construction ended just 5 years ago (in district, not Cherry Brook), but now it has to start again. Let's do a better job this time, look further ahead, so we're not doing it again in only a few years. If the projections show 670 students, can we plan for 750?



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Discussion Summary (continued)

#### GRADE RECONFIGURATION

- If third grade moves out of Cherry Brook, would there be enough room for full-day kindergarten?
- How about moving Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten into a separate school, an Early Childhood Center?
- Parents are concerned about moving 6<sup>th</sup> grade students into the high school building. Middle school should be separated from the high school, in their own building, for grades 6, 7, 8.
- The CIS works so well now, let's keep the same grades there, and not send 6<sup>th</sup> grade to the middle school, nor add 3<sup>rd</sup> grade to CIS.

#### PARENT PROGRAM

- Now located at the high school, because there wasn't enough space to continue at Cherry Brook. Parents come with young children to prepare them for school. It's working well. (Space needed: Classroom with sink, toilet access, office)

#### ART & MUSIC

- Don't want to see Art and Music lose their classrooms. No art or music on a cart.

#### ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

- Sunshine Math, an enrichment program, has been discontinued because there is nowhere to do it. Parents are asked to "do it at home."



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